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*Ayurvedic College in Malabar*

* 3412 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to start an Ayurvedic College in Malabar in 1955–56; and

(*b*) if so, where it is to be located?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY: (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

*Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: May I know from the Hon. Minister why the answer is in the negative. I want to know the ' why ' for the answer ' no '?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY: Government are not aware of any demand for the starting of Ayurvedic Colleges either from Malabar or from any other district.

*Renewal of driving licences*

* 3413 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state when the Government transferred the power to renew the licence of drivers and conductors from the Police Department to the Regional Transport Authority?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: The work connected with the registration of motor vehicles, issue of driving licences, etc., which was being done by the District Superintendents of Police was transferred to the respective Regional Transport Officers in three stages (i.e.), (1) in the Tiruchirappalli district with effect from 1st April 1952, (2) in South Kanara, the Nilgiris, Tanjore, South Arcot, Ramanathapuram and Chingleput districts with effect from 1st April 1954 and (3) in the remaining districts with effect from 1st April 1955. In the City of Madras, however, this work continues to be done by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (T. & L.).

Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Are the Government aware that after the power to renew the licence of drivers and conductors has been transferred to the Regional Transport Authority in the districts, there has been extraordinary delay in getting back the renewed licence of drivers and conductors? Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into this matter and see that licences are renewed as early as possible? Otherwise the drivers and conductors cannot work and get their wages?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: If any particular instance is brought to the notice of the Government, they will examine it. But I may tell the hon. Member that the present scheme is working very satisfactorily.

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SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : May I know the reasons for the transfer of this power?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Apart from so many other reasons, there was considerable delay in the matter of granting of licences and certificates to conductors.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Is it a fact that Government have issued orders to Regional Transport Officers that licences are to be granted only to candidates who are in possession of III Form certificates. If that is so, have any Harijans applied for licences? Will the Government consider the necessity of relaxing the rules and give licences to persons possessing qualifications less than the Eighth Standard?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : In the case of Harijans exemption has since been granted and the rules are not to be applied so rigidly.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : The Hon. Minister said that regarding the renewal of licences, everything functions properly. Are Government aware if a driver or conductor wants to get his licence renewed, he has to meet some employees in the Transport Authority's office? Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he has received any representation from Malabar from one Sri Francis Mitchael that his licence was not renewed and whether he has asked for the permission of the Government to file a suit against the Regional Transport Authority in Malabar district?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There is no need for filing a suit at all. If there has been any delay, that could have been brought to the notice of the Government. One isolated instance does not go to show that the entire scheme is wrong or is not working satisfactorily.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : May I know, Sir, what is the difficulty with this unfortunate Transport Department? At one time power is being transferred, another time this power is taken away and then some power is being given. What is the difficulty?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : What is the difficulty which the hon. Member experiences with the present scheme?

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : If the Hon. Speaker gives me some time, at least five minutes, I can explain the difficulty not only of myself but of other hon. Members as also the experience of the public with regard to the transfer of these powers. I can even suggest to the Hon. Chief Minister that instead of transferring this power here and there, he can transfer the portfolio from one Minister to another Minister.

SRI A. M. RATHNASWAMY : Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any minimum qualification is being insisted upon from the Harijan candidates and what is the experience of the Government by the transfer of this power from the Police Department to the Regional Transport Authority.

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Conductors are exempted not only from educational qualification but also other qualifications. These rules are not to be applied rigidly but with an amount of elasticity. That is the instruction given. Every Harijan who has applied for a conductor's certificate has been provided with it. I do not think there is any difficulty with regard to this matter.

With regard to the other question which my hon. Friend Sri R. V. Swaminathan wanted to know whether the Government have experienced any difficulty in this matter, we wanted to reorganise the entire transport system in such a manner that it gives satisfaction not only to the operators but also to the general public. If there are difficulties now and then found by the hon. Member, he may bring it to the notice of the Government and it can be rectified. I may tell the hon. Member that no system can be perfect.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : கனம் ஸ்ரீ ஆர். வி. சுவாமிநாதன் போன்ற அங்கத்தினர்களால் ஏற்படக்கூடிய தொல்லைகள் இம்மாதிரி மாற்றிக் கொண்டிருப்பதற்குக் காரணமா ? (சிரிப்பு.)

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : The Hon. Minister has not taken this problem very seriously. If one conductor or one driver does not get his licence renewed, he cannot earn his livelihood. I can quote so many instances in Malabar where bus conductors and drivers did not get their licences renewed. As President of the Malabar Motor Workers' Union I can quote to the Hon. Minister so many examples. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to see that whenever applications are received for renewal of licences, the matter is expedited so that the workers can earn their livelihood? Otherwise, can I ask the Hon. Minister to take up the responsibility regarding the existence of these drivers and conductors?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : No complaints have been received from any district. If there are some complaints like this in Malabar, the Advisory Committee to which I was referring just now can help in the matter if they are informed about this. The Collector can then take up the matter and advice the Regional Transport Authority to issue the licences as quickly as possible. Therefore, the hon. Member will now see that there is some useful purpose served by the constitution of this Advisory Committee.

*Industrial disputes*

* 3414 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the President of the Salem Modern Theatres Workers' Union in January 1956 regarding the victimisation of certain workers in the said concern; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?